(c) what steps Government propose to take for overcoming the financial difficulty in order to meet their contractual obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. A number of Undertakings in both Public and Private Sector are having foreign exchange crunch; but the names of Public Undertakings appearing in the news item are Minerals and Metals Trading Corpn. (MMTC), State Trading Corpn. (STC) and Indian Oil Corpn. (IOC).

(b) The items imported under canalisation by each one of the organisations, indicated in the newspaper report, are as follows:—

M.M.T.C.

(i) Fertilisers
(ii) Steel
(iii) Non-ferrous metals
(iv) Raw Asbestos
(v) A. G. Flourspar

S.T.C.

(i) Edible Oils
(ii) Newsprint
(iii) Natural Rubber
(iv) Fatty Acids
(v) Drugs & Chemicals

I.O.C.

Crude & Petroleum products.

Quantities to be imported by the Undertakings will depend on estimated demand, domestic production, inventory and availability of resources from time to time.

(c) As part of the strategy to meet the difficult balance of payments situation, Public Sector Undertakings were advised to review the requirement, draw-down inventories, stagger the placement of orders and take recourse to credit facilities as far as possible. Through this method, the contractual obligations are being restricted to manageable levels and fully met. The matter is continuously reviewed so that the management of balance of payments situation and foreign exchange reserves is coordinated with the contractual obligations from time to time.

With a view to improve the level of foreign exchange reserves the Government proposes to continue in short run, the import compression measures, accelerate the utilisation of already committed external aid and explore additional financing facilities including the use of IMF facilities.

In the medium term, the Government proposes to reduce the trade gap through more vigorous export promotion measures; augment "net invisibles" through increased receipts from services including tourism receipts; and increase capital flows consistent with financial prudence and their productive use. Consistent with our overall economic policies, measures to attract foreign direct investments and to encourage larger capital inflows from non-residents Indians are also proposed to be taken.

Medical bill received by Regional Office of State Bank of Indore at Bhopal

154. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the medical bills received by the Regional Office, New Delhi Zonal Office, Bhopal of the State Bank of Indore from the Staff members during March/April, 1991;

(b) what is the number of medical bills sanctioned so far and the number of bills which are pending; and

(c) whether some of these bills have been misplaced also, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.